

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:AM
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR:GSVEST
D:MBARNES
S/S-O:RCASTRODALE

-----028149 010115Z /64

O 010038Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193268

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, CY

SUBJECT: HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT JULY 31 TO INDICATE ON BEHALF OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THAT "COMPRO-MISE" HOUSE AMENDMENT LINKING LIFTING OR SUSPENSION OF THE TURKISH EMBARGO TO RESOLUTION OF THE VAROSHA ISSUE WOULD BE REJECTED IN TURKEY AND WOULD CAUSE A "VERY SERIOUS REACTION" ON THE PART OF BOTH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

2. ESENBEL SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE JULY 30 NEW YORK TIMES, HAD REJECTED AN AMENDMENT ALONG THESE LINES
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WHEN IT HAD BEEN RAISED WITH HIM ON JULY 28 BY CONGRESSMEN WRIGHT AND BRADEMAS. ESENBEL EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH AN AMENDMENT WOULD ALSO ALMOST CERTAINLY BE VERY DETRIMENTAL TO THE CAUSE OF ENSURING PEACE IN CYPRUS. AN AMENDMENT LINKING THE EMBARGO LIFTING TO VAROSHA WOULD BE SUCH OBVIOUS LINKAGE THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT THE EMBARGO HAD, IN FACT, NOT BEEN LIFTED.

3. ESENBEL NOTED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD MADE ITS POSITION ON VAROSHA CLEAR AND INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT SUCH AN APPROACH, BUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT

CONTAINING "OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE" WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT ON VAROSHA. WITH REGARD TO THE DENKTASH VAROSHA PROPOSAL ITSELF, ESENBEL SAID IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT ALL TURKISH MILITARY FORCES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA TO BE RETURNED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE193268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCEWING:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-1027
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808112/aaaadpsb.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2b1f6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1576301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, CY
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2b1f6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014